guidelines is also available on Internet (http://fert.nic.in). Recently, the on account payment has also been raised from 80% to 85% and up to 90% supported by Bank Guarantee against this 5% payment in respect of indigenous manufacturers of phosphatic & potassic (P&K) fertilizers *w.e.f.* 1.4.2001.

(c) to (f) A cost price study in respect of indigenous and imported DAP and MOP was undertaken by the Tariff Commission (the erstwhile BICP) in the year 1998. Another study of units manufacturing complex grade fertilizers has also been undertaken by the Commission. The recommendations of the Tariff Commission with minor modifications have been implemented *w.e.f.* 1999-2000 for determination of concession rates of phosphatic & potassic fertilizers and the recommendations of the Commission in respect of complex fertilizers will form the basis for determination of concession rates for these fertilizers under the Concession Scheme. As the rates of concession are fixed taking into account the efficiency norms for the industry recommended by an independent professional body like tariff Commission, they encourage the industry to improve efficiency and in turn over-all performance.

Poor quality phosphatic fertilizer manufacture subsidy receivers

638. SHRI P. N. SIVA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of subsidy on fertilizers paid to phosphatic fertilizer producers during the last three years;

(b) whether any complaints have been received against phosphatic fertilizer producers for the poor quality of the products and bogus claims for subsidy;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the defaulters; and

(d) the procedure adopted to verify the claims for subsidy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) The year-wise amount of subsidy disbursed

under the Concession Scheme for de-controlled phosphatic and potassic fertilisers during the last three years is as under:—

Year	Amount of Subsidy in Rs. Crore
1998-99	3789.94
1999-2000	4500.00
2000-01	4319.00

(b) and (c) The Government over the years has been taking action based on individual complaints and newspaper reports which generally relate to fraudulent claims of subsidy and other malpractices under the Concession Scheme for decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertilisers as also regarding supply of poor quality of fertilisers mainly relating to Single Super Phosphate (SSP). The concerned State Governments are then requested to investigate into the allegations for taking appropriate action under the provisions of Fertiliser Control Order (FCO). Pending receipt of recommendations/findings of the State Governments, further release of subsidy to the concerned unit is withheld by the Central Government. Thereafter, based on findings/recommendations of the State Government, recovery of the subsidy amount claimed by the involved unit/company is effected by the Central Government. The State Government of Punjab is presently carrying out investigations against some of its SSP units. The State Government of Bihar has also been requested to look into the allegations regarding impropriety in the matter of issue of certification of sales by the State authorities. Processing of subsidy claims has been withheld in all such cases where completion of required investigation is pending. The State Government of Uttar Pradesh had submitted the report in respect of the enquiry conducted against all its SSP units. The decision taken in concurrence with the UP Government on future course of action in the matter has been communicated to the State Government.

(d) Under the Concession Scheme, the processing of concession claims is carried out in accordance with the procedure laid down thereunder, which, *inter-alia* includes final settlement of subsidy

claims after sales verification by the concerned State Government in prescribed proforma forming basis for final settlement of the claim. Further, in order to put a curb on sale of non standard SSP to farmers and need to promote use of specified grades of rock phosphate, under the new guidelines a Technical & Audit Inspection Cell (TAC) has been constituted to conduct first (1st) time as well as six-monthly inspections of SSP manufacturers for ensuring usage of specified grades of rock phosphate from sources notified by the Department of Fertilizers from time to time. Certain grades of rock phosphate along with sources have since been notified by the Department of Fertilizers.

Export of Anthrax medicines to USA

639. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether USA needs medicines to quell the Anthrax crisis; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Indian Pharmaceutical firms to export medicines available in plenty in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The Government of India had offered to the United States supply of US $ 1 million worth of Ciprofloxacin for treatment of Anthrax. The Government was informed that the United States Government would not be availing of the offer, as they had, in the meantime, been able to arrange for ample supply of Ciprofloxacin within the United States.

Low priced fertilizers for drought prone areas

640. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to sell fertilizers at lower rates to farmers in drought and famine prone area; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?